

Duhring (L.A.)

THE FOUNDATION

OF

AMERICAN DERMATOLOGY

BEING THE

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS



AT THE FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN DERMATOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION HELD AT NEWPORT R. I.

AUGUST 31, 1880

BY

LOUIS A. DUHRING, M.D.

Extracted from the Transactions of the Association.

PRESS OF J. B. LIPPINCOTT & CO., PHILADELPHIA.

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GENTLEMEN:—At the last annual meeting of the Association, when I had the honor of presenting my views on early American dermatology, it seemed to me that the subject was left in an incomplete state, and that the history should have been carried on to the present. The material, however, was found to be far more extensive than had been anticipated, and was, indeed, too great to utilize in the allotted time. As will be remembered, the history was brought to a close with the year 1870. Nor was this done without reason, for it must be evident, I think, to any observer who has followed the course of our dermatology, that the year marks the line between the old and the new. At this epoch, with the coming upon the field of earnest and conscientious workers, dermatology began to grow at a pace before unknown, and to assume a conspicuous position by the side of the other specialties of medicine. From this date onward to the present, exactly one decade, the subject has been steadily resolving itself into a well-formed and compact totality, founded on reliable and scientific data. As, therefore, on the previous occasion I had the pleasure of reviewing its gradual rise, I will to-day complete the task by considering the ground on which the structure has since been so well founded.

The past decade is replete with interest, and contains an amount of dermatological research which not only compares favorably with, but, I venture to say, exceeds that accomplished in the other departments of medicine. Germany, France, England, Italy, and our own country, have all done excellent work. To this statement the many scientific and practical communications to be found in the special journals and elsewhere amply testify. Especially prominent

in literature do we find Germany, England, and this country, whose contributions have been both numerous and valuable. The forward strides of dermatology within this brief period have been truly remarkable. In support of this assertion one has but to glance over the treatises on diseases of the skin published ten or even five years ago. Our information has indeed of late increased at such a rapid pace as to demand revised editions of such works at the shortest possible intervals. A decade formerly comprised comparatively few important discoveries, while now each year may be said to add materially to our stock of knowledge.

With the year 1870 our dermatological ranks were substantially strengthened by a number of zealous and able workers, the names of most of whom have since become so familiar that it would be ill-timed to allude to them here. Suffice it to say that they were for the most part eminently qualified by long study abroad to enter upon their labors. At this date, especially, the study of skin diseases in Europe, more particularly in Vienna, with Hebra, Auspitz, Neumann, and Kaposi; in Paris, with Bazin, Hardy, Guibout, Hillairet, Vidal, and Fournier; and in London, with the late Tilbury Fox, Hutchinson, Naylor, Sims, and Fagge, was made both easy and attractive. The kindly spirit and extreme courtesy shown during these years to American physicians by our European confrères at the various clinics and hospitals is worthy of more than a passing word, and it affords me hearty pleasure to make formal acknowledgment of an appreciation which I am confident was felt by all who enjoyed these opportunities.

The foreign dermatology of this epoch, as seen by American eyes, was briefly sketched in a series of letters,* and in an article,† both by the writer, which were published with the view of communicating information for the benefit of students contemplating study abroad. Somewhat later, an analytical paper, entitled "a review of modern dermatology,"‡ also appeared in the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, from the pen of Dr. James C. White, wherein was presented much of interest concerning foreign dermatology. Diseases of the skin now began to attract considerable attention, and the profession at large was not slow in recognizing meritorious communications. On the contrary, the really good productions were amply appreciated, as shown by the reprints and full abstracts to be found in the leading journals.

In 1870 an event occurred which marks an era in dermatology at large. I refer to the publication of the first number of the *American Journal of Syphilography and Dermatology*, which was issued in October of this year, under the editorial management of Dr. M. H. Henry, of New York. The journal was well conducted by its editor, who received valuable assistance from our dermatologists in the

* Phila. Med. Times, vol. i. (1870-71).

† "On the Study of Dermatology," Amer. Jour. of Syph. and Derm., April, 1871.

‡ April, 1871.

form of original articles, reviews of foreign books, translations, and abstracts. Its appearance was the signal for a more general interest in the subject, which many began to find attractive. Much of the success which American dermatology has since achieved can, I think, be traced more or less directly to the influence which this journal exerted upon the profession. It was carried on to the completion of the fifth year. The *Photographic Review of Medicine and Surgery*, edited by the late Dr. F. F. Maury and the writer, made its appearance in the autumn of this year, and, though not specially devoted to dermatology, contained several rare cases of skin disease. A remarkably large development of keloid upon a negro, by Dr. Maury;* an extensive growth of dermatolysis, by Dr. Keen;† cornu cutaneum of the cheek, by Dr. Pancoast;‡ enormous elephantiasis of one lower extremity, by Dr. Ingraham;§ a similar case, by Dr. J. R. Wood;|| leprosy in a Cuban, by Dr. Beecher;¶ syphilis of the nose simulating epithelioma, by Dr. Gross;** and acne rosacea hypertrophica,†† by the writer, may be noted. Elephantiasis also received notice from Dr. Isaac Smith, Jr.,††† of Fall River, who amputated the thigh for the relief of the disease. The nature of the so-called eczema marginatum of Hebra was considered by Dr. E. L. Keyes §§ in a review of the work which had recently been done by Hebra, Köbner, and others. In pathology, Dr. Foster Swift |||| gave his views on "the pathology of eczema;" and the writer, ¶¶ a short article on "the pathology of alopecia areata," wherein the effort was made to disprove the commonly received view of its parasitic nature, and to show its dependence on nerve disturbance. A practical paper on alopecia was also read before the Massachusetts Medical Society, by Dr. Wigglesworth.***

The subject of syphilization, which at this period was being agitated in our country owing to the visit of Dr. Boeck and the views he promulgated, was discussed by the late Dr. Bumstead ††† in an article entitled "the treatment of syphilis by repeated inoculations of matter derived from venereal sores," while excellent descriptions of the serpiginous tubercular ††† and papular §§§ syphilodermata were given by Dr. Taylor. In this connection admirable articles by Dr. Frank P. Foster ||||| on the question of vaccino-syphilis, in which was clearly proved the impossibility of syphilis being conveyed by vaccination with unmixed lymph, may be quoted.

In the way of contributions to literature in book-form, reference

* 1870-71. † 1871-72. ‡ 1870-71. § 1870-71.

|| 1871-72. ¶ 1870-71. ** 1871-72. †† 1871-72.

†† Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sci., July, 1870.

‡‡ Amer. Jour. of Syph. and Derm., January, 1870.

||| Ibid., April, 1870.

¶¶ Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sci., July, 1870.

*** Publications of the Mass. Med. Soc., 1871.

††† Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sci., July, 1870.

††† Amer. Jour. of Syph. and Derm., Jan. 1870.

‡‡‡ Ibid., April, 1870.

|||| Ibid., 1870, 1871, 1873.

must first be made to the third edition of Bumstead's "pathology and treatment of venereal diseases,"* which still justly retained its popularity with the profession. Damon's "photographic illustrations of skin disease"† was also published this year, but the portraits were not of a character of art calculated to win favor with those familiar with these diseases.

During this year there was also established at the Massachusetts General Hospital a special ward for skin diseases, containing twelve beds, in charge of Dr. James C. White, while in the St. Louis College of Physicians and Surgeons, Dr. T. F. Prewitt was elected professor of skin diseases.

The year 1870 is, moreover, memorable for the arrival in Boston of a valuable dermatological museum, consisting of duplicates of the more important models in the Hôpital St. Louis, Paris. The collection was purchased by Dr. Wigglesworth, and consists of many beautiful representations of disease from the hand of the well-known artist, M. Baretta. There are one hundred and seventy-nine models; of these, one hundred and thirty-four portray non-syphilitic and forty-five syphilitic diseases of the skin. Among the rarer affections, four examples of peculiar forms of scrofuloderma, six of lupus, three of lymphangitis, one of pityriasis rubra, and one of that but little understood disease called by the French *mycosis fungoide*, may be noted.

The last mentioned model shows the head, arm, and forearm, and anterior surface of the trunk, which regions are the seat of variously-sized, apparently soft, flat and prominently-raised, smooth and scaly, circumscribed and diffused, pinkish, fungoid tumors, tubercles, and shallow ulcers, the latter discharging a yellowish, sanious fluid. Some of these lesions are the size of coins, while others are as large as the palm of a hand. Over those which have not broken down numerous distinctly-defined, superficial, capillary blood-vessels are conspicuous. The patient was a woman aged about 50, but, unfortunately, there is no history. I have called special attention to this case because the subject of fungoid diseases of the skin is one of much interest, and moreover because it has occurred to me that the disease was probably the same as that which I brought before the Association at a former meeting, with the title "inflammatory fungoid neoplasm." This costly and valuable collection was in 1873 donated by Dr. Wigglesworth to Harvard University. I believe that no catalogue of the museum has as yet been prepared.

In this connection brief reference may be made to another collection of models, of which, in 1868, the Mütter Museum of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia became the possessor. It comprises about one hundred and thirty pieces illustrative of diseases of the skin and syphilis. The value of dermatological museums, comprising models from various countries, for purposes of study and

* Philadelphia, 1870.

† Boston, 1870.

teaching, is I think great, for a knowledge of comparative dermatology may thus be acquired which cannot fail to be of service.

On the first of January, 1871, was opened in Philadelphia the "Dispensary for Skin Diseases," with the writer as physician-in-charge, and subsequently with Dr. Van Harlingen as assistant-physician. This institution was the first of the kind ever established in this city. Upon its register stand now the names of between three and four thousand patients, representing many interesting and rare cases. Clinical lectures and practical instruction were given here by the writer to both students and physicians. The dispensary is still in active operation, being at the present time under the professional care of Dr. Stelwagon.*

Appointments in our medical schools may here be spoken of, and first I would refer to the professorship of dermatology created in this year in Harvard University, to which position Dr. James C. White was elected. The same year Dr. William A. Hardaway was chosen lecturer on skin diseases in the Missouri Medical College, and the writer to the same position in the University of Pennsylvania.

In September there was published† a translation of the second German edition of Neumann's *Lehrbuch der Hautkrankheiten*, the translator being Dr. L. D. Bulkley, who, in addition to the work of translation, added copious notes of a practical character, relating chiefly to treatment. With this volume, which was welcomed by the profession, was introduced a knowledge of the modern pathology of skin diseases, the work being particularly valuable as an exponent of recent German pathology.

Simultaneously there appeared a republication of the second English edition of Tilbury Fox's excellent treatise on skin diseases,‡ a book eminently English in spirit, and which viewed the subject from an entirely different standpoint from that of Neumann. At the period of which we are speaking but little original pathological research in skin diseases had been done in England, and the author greatly enhanced the value of his work by utilizing the labors of his German confrères. The volume was edited by Dr. Henry, and was a rare acquisition to our libraries. It was, I need scarcely say, well received, and in 1873 passed into a second American, from the third enlarged and revised English edition.

Here permit me the privilege to pause and speak of the late distinguished author whose treatise has been referred to. The tidings

* In connection with the subject of the establishment of special dispensaries for skin diseases, I take pleasure in referring to a note received from Dr. Piffard subsequent to the reading of the "Rise of American Dermatology," wherein attention is called to the fact that in 1836 the "New York Infirmary for Diseases of the Skin" was established, with Drs. John W. Schmidt, Minturn Post, and Charles Potter as physicians; and that an infirmary for skin diseases was also established in Boston, at the corner of Washington and Winter Streets, in 1837, under the care of Dr. Charles Gordon. (See *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, Feb. 15 and March 22, 1837.)

† New York, 1871.

‡ New York, 1871.

of his sudden death, which took place in June, 1879, came upon us from across the water most unexpectedly, and I need not allude to the heart-felt sorrow experienced by all who knew him, but by none so keenly as those who could claim his friendship. William Tilbury Fox was a rare man. He combined with a well-balanced mind unusual intelligence and acute perceptive powers. He moreover possessed all the traits which conduce to make man truly a noble creature. He was modest, conscientious, gentle, and, not least, thoroughly manly. Before the world he carried himself bravely.

As a physician he stood eminently high, conspicuous among the many of the world's metropolis, holding the best opinion of his professional confrères; respected by all, beloved by friends. As a dermatologist he was without a rival, and among his countrymen had no superior. By observation, close study, and persevering industry, he rapidly rose in the estimation of all, and worthily secured for himself an enviable position. His name was familiar to the world. From the date of mature manhood to the hour of his death his energies were devoted to dermatology with an enthusiasm and love that knew no bounds. One could not meet him without being impressed with his earnestness of purpose; one could not talk with him without feeling that here was a man whose existence was completely wrapped in the subject. He was at all times eager to learn, and was ever ready to impart knowledge with becoming modesty. His sense of superiority, if such he ever experienced, was never permitted to parade itself. In converse with him the student and the professor might feel themselves equally at ease. Can it be a source of wonder, then, that such a man should have attained honor and fame?

To his published works and writings—and they were numerous—I need scarcely refer; they are too familiar to you to require more than mention here. Of their scientific and practical value, and of the esteem in which they are held, it is unnecessary to speak. The eagerness and satisfaction with which they were received, and the high opinion placed upon them by the profession is known to all. His views were broad and cosmopolitan. He was ready to take the good wherever it might be found. He sought information abroad as well as at home. No one was more willing to acknowledge honest work wherever it might be found.

As a personal friend his loss will long be felt. His warm-hearted and generous disposition, and his cordial manner and speech, rendered him peculiarly fascinating. To his American confrères visiting London he extended a welcome with a heartiness which was warmly appreciated and will always be remembered. The writer recalls with gratitude the more than kindly and hospitable reception which was accorded him some years ago, and how by the magic of a few introductory cards the whole dermatological field of London was at once thrown open. Without doubt many since have experienced these same acts of kindness.

With his departure before the prime of manhood had been fairly

reached,—premature, but not before a life's work had been accomplished,—the world lost a noble man, the profession one who had done much to elevate medical science, dermatology one of its most esteemed and valued chiefs, and many of us a cherished friend whose memory will long remain a sacred pleasure.

To return to our history: Among the rarer diseases which at this time received consideration, impetigo contagiosa must be mentioned, which was described by Dr. R. W. Taylor in the *American Journal of Syphilography and Dermatology*,* and later in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.† These articles were the first on this disease which appeared in our country. The affection was also discussed especially with reference to its parasitic nature,‡ and to its relation with vaccinia,§ by Dr. H. G. Piffard. The cases of scleroderma which were reported at about this date by Day,|| Piffard,¶ and Pepper,** are also deserving of notice.

Dactylitis syphilitica, an affection then but little known, was this year ably described by Dr. Taylor.†† Dr. Bumstead†† also called attention to the bullous eruption produced by the administration of the iodide of potassium, which, as it subsequently appeared, had been previously observed by Dr. O'Reilly. In this connection I may refer to a paper by Dr. L. P. Yandell, of Louisville,§§ on the removal of the discoloration produced by the internal use of the nitrate of silver by iodide of potassium. Two cases, both syphilitic, where the staining was deep, and where the nitrate had been previously taken for epilepsy, were cited. An illustrated article on "the physiology and pathology of scars," by Dr. Swerchesky,||| and several translations, as Neumann's experiments on the lymphatics of the skin,¶¶ and Auspitz's cutaneous absorption of insoluble matter,*** both by the writer, and during the following year Fournier's cutaneous syphilodermata,|||| by Dr. T. B. Stirling, and Auspitz's buboes of the inguinal region,|||| by Dr. A. R. Robinson, may also be alluded to. A number of good reviews were, moreover, written at this time, as, for example, those of Koester's epithelial cancer,|||| by Dr. Wigglesworth; Fabre's melanoderma,|||| by Dr. Peugnet, and Lostorfer's syphilitic blood-corpuscles,¶¶¶ by Dr. Henry. Among the original articles we may note a communication made to the Massachusetts State Board of Health on the vegetable parasites of the human Skin,**** by Dr. James C. White, and a paper on the "protection

* October, 1871.

† June 5, 1872.

‡ N. Y. Med. Jour., June, 1872.

§ Ibid., July, 1872.

|| Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sci., July, 1870.

¶ Med. Gaz., June 24, 1871.

** Trans. Coll. of Phys., Phila., Feb. 15, 1871.

†† Amer. Jour. of Syph. and Derm., January, 1871.

†† Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sci., July, 1871. §§ Amer. Practitioner, 1872.

||| Amer. Jour. of Syph. and Derm., July, 1871, and July, 1872.

¶¶ Phila. Med. Times, July 26, 1873. *** Ibid., Sept. 15, 1871.

|||| Amer. Jour. of Syph. and Derm., 1874. ¶¶¶ Ibid., July, 1874.

§§§ Ibid., April, 1871. ¶¶¶¶ Ibid., July, 1873. ¶¶¶¶ Ibid., July, 1872.

**** Report of Mass. State Board of Health, Boston, 1872.

against animal poisons by repeated inoculations,"* by the same writer; also a contribution on the value of veratrum and veratria as parasiticides,† by Dr. Peugnet, and the first annual report of the New York Dispensary for Skin Diseases,‡ by Dr. Piffard.

Finally, with the close of this year must be chronicled the loss of Dr. George D. Blackman, of Cincinnati, at the age of fifty-one, who was most favorably known throughout the country as a surgeon, and as the translator of Vidal de Cassis on venereal diseases.

Early in 1872 the Boston Dispensary for Skin Diseases, at 241 Harrison Avenue, was established, in charge of Dr. Edward Wigglesworth, with Drs. G. H. Rohé and W. P. Bolles as assistants, under whose efficient management the institution continued its career until 1877. During the five years of its existence, according to the annual reports, over three thousand cases were recorded. In the following year a department for skin and venereal diseases was inaugurated at the old Boston Dispensary, with Dr. F. B. Greenough as physician, which has since proved to be one of the largest clinics for these diseases in the country, not less than between nine and ten thousand cases having been registered here during the past eight years. In connection with the subject of dispensaries may be mentioned an analysis of the cases treated during the previous year at the Dispensary for Skin Diseases, Philadelphia, by the writer.§

We have also to record the publication of a small volume, entitled "the animal and vegetable parasites of the human skin and hair,"|| by Dr. B. Joy Jeffries, of Boston. It was pleasantly written, in a semi-popular style, and gave a good deal of accurate information valuable alike to the student and general reader. In the October number of the *American Journal of Syphilography and Dermatology* there appeared a Boylston prize essay on "recent advances in the pathology of diseases of the skin," also by Dr. Jeffries. The work was a succinct and clear exposition of the existing knowledge on the subject, giving especial prominence to the recent labors of the German school.

Dr. J. Collins Warren's monograph on the anatomy and development of rodent ulcer, also a Boylston prize essay, was published ¶ this year, and is entitled to more than this brief notice, being a sterling contribution to medical science. The conclusion arrived at by the author was that the disease was a form of cancer representing its mildest type,—a view which has since been very generally adopted. Certain diseases were now described for the first time, namely, neuroma cutis** and pruritus hiemalis,†† both by the writer, as well as rare well-known diseases, as the prurigo of Hebra,‡‡ by Dr.

* Boston Med. and Surg. Jour., Nov. 9, 1871.

† Amer. Jour. of Syph. and Derm. ¶ Med. Gaz., Feb. 11, 1871.

‡ Phila. Med. Times, vol. ii., 1871-72.

|| Boston, 1872.

** Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sci., Oct. 1873.

†† Phila. Med. Times, Jan. 10, 1874.

‡‡ Amer. Jour. of Syph. and Derm., Jan. 1873.

¶ Boston.

Wigglesworth, and scleroderma,* by Dr. Van Harlingen. A curious observation was made by Dr. Taylor in the case of a man suffering from tinea versicolor, who had been taking iodide of potassium, and whose patches of disease manifested a blue color, from the excreted iodine acting upon a stiffly starched shirt worn next to the skin during intensely hot weather.†

Several papers on purpura rheumatica, by Hardaway,‡ Kinnicutt,§ Mundé,|| and the writer,¶ which appeared about this time, may also be recorded. A peculiarity of the cases reported by the writer was that both the lesions and the constitutional symptoms simulated syphilis. I well recall one of the cases, the wife of a physician, where the eruption consisted of disseminated, rosy, maculo-papular lesions without positive signs of hemorrhage, presenting a picture which resembled the maculo-papular syphilitoderm so closely that on the first examination it was deemed prudent to withhold the diagnosis.

In looking over the medical work of our Army and Navy, as found in the publications of these governmental departments and in the medical journals, one cannot fail to be impressed with the paucity of dermatological observations. Only at long intervals do we encounter such communications. A noteworthy example is found in a volume of medical essays compiled from reports to the bureau of medicine and surgery, published in this year.** Dr. Browne contributes here a short but interesting paper on verrugas, which he states is a disease strictly limited to Peru, and in particular to the beautiful and picturesque valley of the Rimac River, where it has existed for centuries. The district extends from latitude 6° south to 15° south, at an altitude of from 4000 to 7000 feet in the Andean valleys situated on the seaside. In the valleys of the eastern slope, on the side of the Amazon, we are told that the disease is absent, but that here goitre exists.

In another communication, "on some of the diseases and peculiarities of the Pacific islands," Dr. Browne calls attention to a peculiarity of the natural skin of some of these islanders, to which I may refer. He says, "In the Pacific islands the native population differ so much in complexion and smoothness of skin that they may almost be said to be divided into three different classes,—those of the southern, middle, and the northern islands. In the south, represented by Fiji, New Zealand, and Navigator Islands (called Papuans, and generally believed to have gone from Papua), they are very dark and have very rough skins. This roughness of the skin is believed by many to be typical, and I would believe from my own experience that what is said may be true, a blind man might distinguish them by this peculiarity alone."

* Amer. Jour. of Syph. and Derm., Oct. 1873.

† Ibid., April, 1873.

‡ St. Louis Med. and Surg. Jour., March, 1872.

§ Archives of Dermatology, vol. i. No. 3 (1875).

|| Amer. Jour. of Obst., Aug. 1874.

¶ Phila. Med. Times, vol. ii., 1872-73.

** Washington.

Concerning the prevalence of syphilis and leprosy among the natives we are told that in the Society, Marquesas, Gilbert, Marshall, and Caroline Islands, venereal disease and leprosy exist to such an extent as to give the impression that the whole population is diseased, venereal disease at Tahiti being estimated at ninety-five per centum. A large proportion of the syphilis is hereditary, scarcely a native child being free from some trace of it, yet curiously enough these subjects generally attain an old age, while instances of extreme old age are not rare. The people of these islands, according to this writer, are the most licentious in the world. Leprosy is met with in both forms, and we are told is often found combined with syphilis. In the anæsthetic variety a symptom is described which is not usually spoken of by authors, consisting of an irresistible and fixed turning inward and upward of the little fingers preceding anæsthesia. In the Society Islands and Pomoto group elephantiasis Arabum is of frequent occurrence, and is supposed to be contracted by sleeping on the moist ground. Tattooing, while common throughout all these groups, is prohibited in certain of the islands.

During this year the dermatological service at Charity Hospital, New York, was established, the first incumbents being Drs. Schiff, Keyes, and Piffard. A lectureship on skin diseases was also inaugurated at the Rush Medical College, Dr. Hyde filling the position, which has since been occupied by Dr. L. W. Case. The South Side Dispensary of Chicago likewise established a department for skin diseases (in connection with the Chicago Medical College), in charge of Dr. H. P. Merriman, while the following year a like department was opened in the same city at the Central Free Dispensary, with Dr. W. J. Maynard as physician.

In this year the roll of American dermatologists sustained a signal loss in the death of Dr. Henry D. Bulkley, who for a period of nearly a half century was intimately identified with the interests of dermatology in New York City. Well known as a writer and as a lecturer on skin diseases, to which department of medicine he almost exclusively devoted himself, he was also eminently successful as a practical dermatologist. He was the American editor of Burgess's translation of Cazenave and Schedel's "manual of skin diseases," as well as of Gregory's "eruptive fevers." He occupied a high place in the profession, having held during the latter years of his life many positions of honor, among these the presidency of the New York Academy of Medicine, of the New York County Medical Society, and of the New York Dermatological Society. His death, at the age of sixty-eight, was a loss which was deeply felt by all. He was universally esteemed and beloved.

In October, 1874, a second American journal devoted exclusively to the interests of dermatology was started, it having been, we believe, understood at the time that with the completion of the fifth volume of the *American Journal of Syphigraphy and Dermatology* its publication would be suspended. The new journal, bearing the title *Archives of Dermatology*, under the editorship of Dr. L.

D. Bulkley, of New York, assisted by an able corps of collaborators, entered upon its career most auspiciously. To some of the admirable articles which have appeared in its pages allusion will later be made, while concerning the excellent work, in the form of the serial digests of current literature, which has always constituted a conspicuous feature, the present offers opportunity for a word. The criticism here has, as a rule, been most judicious and temperate. But few instances could be cited where writers failed to receive the consideration which their communications deserved. The journal is to be congratulated upon the assistance which it has received from its collaborators, whose labors have added largely to its success. The scientific and practical tone which has characterized the publication from the beginning has done much to elevate the specialty with the profession, and we sincerely trust that a long and prosperous future is still before it.

In connection with the subject of serial digests, mention may here be made of work which was begun in 1872 in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, entitled "reports on the progress of dermatology," by Dr. James C. White. These semi-annual reports have been marked by well-selected abstracts of the more important papers of the time, and have proved a reliable guide to the general practitioner.

Of rare diseases, notes of which were published at about this date, the cases of molluscum fibrosum of Octerloney,* Atkinson,† Wigglesworth,‡ Ford,§ Michel,|| Porcher,¶ and the writer,** may be quoted. A peculiar form of disease was described by Dr. F. P. Foster,†† with the name "herpes contagiosus varioliformis." From the description given it occurred to the writer at the time that the disease might have been an unusual form of impetigo contagiosa.

Certain other rare diseases were reported to which reference must be made. Thus, the notes of four cases of scleroderma, by Dr. White;†† a case of pityriasis rubra, by Dr. Fox;§§ four cases of leprosy, three by Dr. Donor,||| and one by Dr. Ross,¶¶ are all of much interest. A remarkable example of elephantiasis of the scrotum came under the observation of the writer at the hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, and was successfully operated on by the late Dr. John Neill.*** Two examples of this disease were also reported by Dr. Jenks,††† and one by Dr. Weir.†††

* Arch. of Derm., July, 1875.

† N. Y. Med. Jour., Dec. 1875.

† Arch. of Derm., April, 1876.

‡ Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sci., July, 1876.

|| Ibid., Jan. 1875.

¶ Ibid., Jan. 1878.

** Phila. Med. Times, vol. vi., 1875-76.

†† Arch. of Derm., Jan. 1875.

††† Ibid., July, 1875.

§§ Ibid.

||| N. Y. Med. Rec., Nov. 20, 1875.

¶¶ New Orleans Med. and Surg. Jour., Sept. 1875.

*** Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sci., July and Oct. 1875.

††† Detroit Rev. of Med. and Pharm., Dec. 1875.

††† Arch. of Derm., Oct. 1874.

A case worthy of special notice was recorded by Dr. Hart,* with the name "bloody sweat," which appears to have been one of purpura hemorrhagica and hæmatidrosis combined. There was marked constitutional disturbance preceding and accompanying the hemorrhagic manifestation, which consisted of bloody ejections from the stomach, bowels, and bladder, and an oozing of blood from countless points all over the body, "like bloody perspiration." When the fluid was removed, curiously enough, no staining of the skin was to be seen, the surface on the contrary appearing unnaturally clear and white.

Dr. Bulkley at this period gave out several therapeutical papers, one, "on the local use of tar and its derivatives in the treatment of skin diseases,"† being of especial merit. This was succeeded the following year by the publication of the formula of a useful alkaline tarry solution, which he designated "liquor picis alkalinus,"‡ and "a new anti-pruritic remedy,"§ consisting of equal parts of camphor and chloral.

The poisonous properties of the rhus plants also received attention from Dr. White in articles entitled "on the action of *rhus venenata* and *rhus toxicodendron* upon the human skin,"|| and on ivy poisoning;¶ also from Drs. Busey,** De Witt,†† Maltheson,†† and Humphreys,§§ the last-named observer recommending the use of sulphate of zinc.

The treatment of erysipelas was discussed by Dr. F. Le Roy Satterlee,|||| in a paper bearing the title "erysipelas: its etiology, pathology, and abortive treatment by quinine and opium," wherein was set forth the value of these remedies, especially the former. The treatment recommended consists of one, two, or three full doses of sulphate of quinine, combined with enough tincture or elixir of opium to moderate the disagreeable effects of the quinine upon the head and to assist sleep. In ordinary cases Dr. Satterlee begins by giving at night from twenty-five to thirty grains of quinine dissolved in an ounce and a half of water, with the addition of dilute sulphuric acid, the dose, if necessary, to be repeated on the second or even third night. The opium is said to mask the disagreeable taste of the quinine. The disease is usually aborted in from twenty-four to forty-eight hours. I would add, by way of comment on this plan of treatment, that it has proved satisfactory in my hands. The subject of "the etiology of psoriasis" was also considered by the same author about this period.

During the year the subject of rötheln, or German measles, re-

* Richmond and Louisville Med. Jour., 1875, p. 98.

† Archives of Scientific and Practical Medicine, Feb., Mar., April, 1873.

‡ Detroit Rev. of Med. and Pharm., Sept. 1874.

§ Trans. Amer. Med. Assoc., 1874.

|| N. Y. Med. Jour., March, 1873.

¶ Bost. Med. and Surg. Jour., Sept. 2, 1875.

** Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sci., Oct. 1873.

†† Ibid., Jan. 1874.

|||| N. Y. Med. Jour., Sept. 1874.

†† Ibid., Jan. 1874.

§§ Ibid., July, 1874.

ceived some attention from Dr. J. Lewis Smith, in the form of a short and practical paper in the *Archives of Dermatology*; while Dr. Bulkley* published an account of a case, under the name of "herpes gestationis," which he regarded as an undescribed variety of disease. A second case was subsequently reported by Dr. Bever-hout Thompson.†

The treatment of skin diseases by electricity was also at this time investigated by Dr. George M. Beard‡ and by Dr. F. P. Kinnicutt,§ the former observer reporting cases of chronic eczema treated by central galvanization, and of nævi and malignant tumors treated by electrolysis. Dr. B. F. Dawson|| also gave his views on the treatment of vascular nævi with the galvanic cautery. Reports of cases of herpes zoster treated by electricity were, moreover, recorded by Drs. Bulkley¶ and F. W. Godon.**

Two articles by Dr. Bulkley, one entitled "the relations of the urine to diseases of the skin,"†† the other "the relations of the nervous system to diseases of the skin,"††† remain to be mentioned, the latter especially being an interesting and suggestive paper. The etiology of infantile eczema §§ and the treatment of eczema,|||| both by Dr. Taylor, and an essay on the management of eczema, by Dr. Bulkley,¶¶ all practical contributions, must also be recorded.

The contributions of Dr. Piffard on "the compound microscope as an aid to the study of the skin and skin diseases *in situ*,"*** "methods of physical investigation in dermatology,"†††† "the rheumatic diathesis in dermatology,"†††† and "the treatment of the scrofulides,"§§§§ also call for mention. At about this time a brilliant operation was performed by the late Dr. Maury, consisting of the exsection of the brachial plexus of nerves for the relief of painful neuroma cutis.|||||

The anatomy and pathology of the skin received comparatively little attention, articles on "the supply of nerves to the skin," by S. Weir Mitchell;¶¶¶¶ "the changes in the skin and its appendages, following lesion of the nervous structures," by S. G. Web-

* Amer. Jour. of Obst. and Dis. of Children, Feb. 1874.

† Arch. of Derm., Oct. 1875.

‡ Ibid., Oct. 1874; also, Amer. Jour. of Syph. and Derm., Jan. 1872; and Phila. Med. Times, Sept. 5, 1875.

§ Arch. of Derm., Oct. 1875.

¶ Amer. Jour. Obst. and Dis. of Children, May, 1874.

|| Arch. of Derm., Oct. 1874. ** N. Y. Med. Rec., May 27, 1876.

†† Arch. of Derm., Oct. 1875.

††† Arch. of Elect. and Neurol., Nov. 1874, and May, 1875.

†††† Amer. Pract., June, 1875.

¶¶¶ Amer. Clin. Lect., vol. ii. No. 2, 1876.

¶¶¶¶ Trans. Amer. Med. Assoc., 1874.

*** Arch. of Derm., Jan. 1875.

†††† Phila. Med. Times, March 29, 1875.

††††† Trans. N. Y. Acad. of Med., 1875.

¶¶¶¶ Practitioner, Dec. 1875.

|||| Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sci., July, 1874.

||||¶¶¶¶ Phila. Med. Times, No. 126, 1874.

ber;* "the histology of scrofulides," by Dr. Piffard;† "the pathology of lupus vulgaris,"‡ and "angioma with sarcomatous degeneration,"§ both by the writer, constituting perhaps the most important contributions.

Syphilis now began to receive more attention than before, first in the form of the excellent "practical treatise on the surgical diseases of the genito-urinary organs, including syphilis," by Drs. Van Buren and Keyes;|| and secondly, in the way of translations and compilations, Sigmund's treatment of venereal diseases by Dr. Henry,¶ and Langston Parker's treatment of syphilitic diseases by the mercurial bath, compiled by Dr. J. W. Foye,** being deserving of notice. The subject of syphilitic infection was considered by several careful observers, the articles of Dr. F. N. Otis†† and J. N. Hyde†† demanding special mention. The "pathology of early syphilis," by Dr. W. A. Hardaway;§§ "on the present state of the question of the unity or duality of syphilis," by Dr. Burnstead;||| the "etiology of congenital syphilis, histologically considered," by Dr. I. E. Atkinson;¶¶ "the question of the relation between rachitis and syphilis,"*** and the "syphilitic lesions of the osseous system in infants and young children,"††† both by Dr. R. W. Taylor, are all to be referred to as studied contributions. The last named article of Dr. Taylor was an exhaustive monograph, embodying both clinical observation and pathological research. Another paper on "the use of mercury in the late stages of syphilis," being a plea for mercury and for mixed treatment, by Dr. F. R. Sturgis,††† is also worthy of remark. The oleate of mercury in syphilis was highly recommended by Dr. Sturgis in this article, and also in another communication by Dr. J. D. W. Roberts. §§§

Reference may also be made to papers on the "differential diagnosis between psoriasis and syphiloderma squamosum,"|||| "so-called psoriasis syphilitica,"¶¶¶ and the "papulo-squamous syphiloderm,"**** all by the writer. Finally, concerning this disease, the statistical contributions of Dr. Sturgis†††† on the effect of syph-

* Bost. Med. and Surg. Jour., Dec. 17, 1874.

† N. Y. Med. Jour., 1875.

‡ Phila. Path. Soc. Reports, vol. v., 1874-75.

§ Ibid.

|| New York, 1874.

¶ Amer. Jour. of Syph. and Derm., April, 1872. ** Boston, 1874.

||| N. Y. Med. Jour., 1872; also Amer. Jour. of Syph. and Derm., July, 1871.

†† Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sci., Jan. 1874.

††† Missouri Clin. Record, Sept. 1874.

†††† Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sci., April, 1873.

¶¶ N. Y. Med. Jour., 1875.

*** Amer. Pract., Feb. 1875.

†††† Amer. Jour. Obst., etc., 1874.

††††† Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sci., Jan. 1875.

¶¶¶ Cincinnati Lancet and Obs., May, 1875.

|||| Phila. Med. Times, 1873-74.

¶¶¶¶¶ Ibid., 1873-74.

††††† N. Y. Med. Rec., Feb. 1874.

**** Ibid., 1873-74.

ilis on the duration of life, and of Drs. S. D. Gross* and R. W. Taylor† on the relation of syphilis to health and to life, must be quoted.

Turning to our medical schools we note that in 1875 the University of Louisville created a professorship of skin diseases, to which Dr. L. P. Yandell was elected, while in the same year Dr. F. A. Spalding was appointed lecturer on skin diseases in the Detroit Medical College.

In this year Dr. Piffard published "a new clinical classification of skin diseases."‡ But little interest had before been manifested in this subject. Worcester in his work on diseases of the skin, published in 1845, adhered to the classification of Willan, which he modified, however, by dividing the diseases into two great classes, namely, moist and dry, a step which he conceived would be of practical value. Damon, in his book on the "neuroses of the skin," published in 1868, gave his views on the subject of classification, and divided the dermatoses into four classes, as follows: I. Neuroses; II. Functional diseases of the cutaneous glands; III. Inflammations; IV. Structural lesions of the skin, including pathological new formations. We find no record in our literature of any further attempt at classification until we meet the scheme of Piffard, which is so much at variance with the views of other dermatologists that the outlines may briefly be given. The diseases are placed in five groups, the first being designated diathetic. This is subdivided into several classes, one of which is termed "Rheumides," the word conveying the idea of exudation, and equivalent to the Dartres, or Herpetides, of the French. Here are found eczema, psoriasis, and similar diseases. As diathetic diseases, moreover, we find a list including syphilis, leprosy, scrofula, and ichthyosis. Group II. consists of "non-diathetic" affections; as, for example, the eruptive fevers. Group III. is composed of "reflex diseases," where are found, for example, acne and urticaria. Group IV. comprises "local diseases," as the parasitic affections; while Group V. includes "affections of an uncertain nature," where are placed elephantiasis Arabum, lichen, molluscum, and other diseases equally dissimilar in nature and in clinical features. The author claimed that the classification was a natural or etiological one, but, without entering into discussion on this point, it seems as a whole to be lacking in consistency.

In the spring of the following year was published by the same author, "an elementary treatise on diseases of the skin."§ This was the first strictly original treatise on the subject from an American pen, the book of Worcester, already referred to, being but little more than a compilation, while the several volumes of Damon were monographs only. With the scope as well as with the subject

* Louisville and Richmond Med. Jour., Jan. 1875.

† N. Y. Med. Rec., March 13 and April 17, 1875.

‡ Arch. of Derm., vol. i. No. 3 (1875).

§ New York, 1876.

matter of Dr. Piffard's book you are so familiar that any attempt of an exposition of the same on my part would be altogether superfluous. Simultaneously with this work there appeared the first part of the writer's "atlas of skin diseases,"* designed to illustrate in chromolithography the commoner diseases of the skin as encountered in this country. It was announced with the first part that the atlas when completed would consist of from eight to ten parts, each containing four plates with explanatory text. To the present time seven parts have been issued.

There still remains a dermatological work to be noticed, namely, a small treatise on diseases of the skin, by Dr. S. Lilienthal,† a disciple of Hahnemann. The work lacks both personal observation and originality. In it we find the dermatologists of the day, notably Hebra and Wilson, closely followed, the former indeed being quoted on almost every page, so often and at such length that one is tempted to regard the volume in the light of a homœopathic edition of Hebra.

In September, 1876, the memorable event of the International Medical Congress took place in Philadelphia, whereat dermatology received such recognition from the profession as to place it for the first time on a plane with the other important specialties of medicine. The section of dermatology and syphilography called forth much interest on the part of our leading dermatologists, as well as several articles of a high order. Among these I would especially mention the elaborate paper by Dr. White, on "variations in type and in prevalence of diseases of the skin in different countries of equal civilization,"‡ in which occurs a large amount of valuable statistical information. The tables showing the comparative frequency of the more common diseases in American and European dispensary and private practice are of especial interest. Those exhibiting the relative frequency of certain rare forms of disease in dispensary and private practice in America and Europe are also valuable, although in my opinion they are compiled from material too limited to afford an idea of the actual frequency of these diseases. I venture to remark that, with the increase of knowledge and refinement of diagnosis in skin diseases which is now spreading so rapidly throughout all countries, the list of the rare diseases of the present day will from year to year become markedly larger.

Of the other papers presented, that of Bulkley, entitled, "are eczema and psoriasis local diseases of the skin, or are they manifestations of constitutional disorders?"§ must be mentioned. The communications of Dr. Enders, in charge of the government asylum for lepers on the island of Molokai, on "leprosy as observed in the Sandwich Islands,"|| in which it was stated that the disease could be inoculated and communicated, like syphilis, in vaccination, but that

* Philadelphia, 1876.

† New York, 1876.

‡ Trans. of the International Med. Congress, Phila., 1877.

§ Ibid.

|| Ibid.

it was not contagious, and of Dr. Ward, on "verrugas, a disease peculiar to Peru,"* may also be referred to.

Upon the subject of syphilis two admirable papers were read, one on "the virus of venereal sores, its unity or duality,"† by the late Dr. Bumstead, the other on "the treatment of syphilis,"‡ by Dr. Keyes. The Congress, moreover, proved instrumental in creating such good feeling and concert of action among our dermatologists as to subsequently lead to the establishment of this Association.

The year was, moreover, notable for the publication of valuable statistics. A paper by Dr. James C. White, entitled "an analysis of five thousand cases of skin disease,"§ as observed in the Massachusetts General Hospital, was of especial worth. As Dr. White remarks, "the value of such analyses, incomplete as they necessarily are in many respects, is still great, for they yield valuable information concerning the etiological relations of many cutaneous diseases, and furnish the data for comparing the prevalence of these affections in various countries."

Under the title of "American dermatology,"|| Dr. Damon also published an analysis of ten thousand six hundred and seventy cases of skin disease, with reference to the seasons in which they are most prevalent. The same author, moreover, gave statistics of the cases of cutaneous disease observed in the Boston City Hospital, from 1868 to 1876.¶ Analyses of cases were likewise published by Drs. Bulkley** and Hardaway.††

The contributions to current literature were unusually numerous. In therapeutics we find two articles on the use and value of arsenic in the treatment of skin diseases, by Dr. Bulkley†† and by the writer.||| The former observer also recorded his experience upon the value of the hyposulphite of sodium in the treatment of furunculi;||| and Dr. Wigglesworth his views on the dermal curette.¶¶ Nitrate of zinc in the treatment of venereal and other lesions, by Dr. Piffard;*** "chloral as an anti-pruritic," by Dr. J. R. Black;††† nitrate of alumina in the treatment of pruritus vulvæ, by Dr. H. Gill;††† tar in the treatment of seborrhœa, by Dr. Heitzmann;||||| and new lead ointments, by Drs. Piffard||||| and Taylor,¶¶¶ may

* Trans. of the International Med. Congress, Phila., 1877. † Ibid. ‡ Ibid.
§ Bost. Med. and Surg. Jour., 1876.

|| Arch. of Derm., Oct., 1876.

¶ Annual Report, City Hosp., Boston, 186.

|| Amer. Pract., May, 1875, and April and May, 1876; also N. Y. Med. Jour., April and June, 1877.

†† St. Louis Med. and Surg. Jour., June, 1877.

†† Trans. Amer. Med. Assoc., 1876.

||| H. C. Wood's Treatise on Therapeutics.

||| Amer. Pract., May, 1876.

¶¶ Boston Med. and Surg. Jour., Feb. 10, 1876.

*** New Remedies, March, 1876.

††† Cincinnati Lancet and Obs., March, 1876.

††† St. Louis Med. and Surg. Reporter, 1876.

|||| Trans. International Med. Congress, Phila., 1877.

|||| Arch. of Derm., July, 1876.

¶¶¶ Ibid., April, 1876.

also be referred to. The value of ergot in purpura was considered by Dr. Bulkley* and by Dr. Minich,† while Dr. Hammond‡ presented an article on the successful treatment of vascular tumors by injection with the fluid extract of the same remedy, and Dr. Boisnot§ discussed the question of transfusion in purpura hemorrhagica. "The effect of small doses of mercury in modifying the number of red blood-corpuscles in syphilis," a paper showing research and much labor, by Dr. Keyes,|| was also published this year.

In pathology, articles by Dr. Heitzmann, "on the nature of the suppurative processes in the skin"¶ and on the "development of cancer cells,"** by Drs. Wigglesworth†† and Taylor,†† on sarcoma of the skin, are especially worthy of remark. In this connection reference may also be made to an admirable review and criticism by Dr. R. W. Taylor,§§ on the pathology of syphilis, founded upon the debate on this topic before the London Pathological Society. The neurotic nature of certain cases of purpura, to which attention had been directed as early as 1869 by S. Weir Mitchell,|||| was again brought to notice by Drs. Tyrrell¶¶ and W. T. Taylor.***

Among the rare diseases reference must be made to a case of so-called "podelcoma," from πούς, a foot, and ελύω, an ulcer, reported by Dr. Kemper in the *American Practitioner*.††† The patient was a young man, an American by birth, whose foot six months before became reddened, swollen, and painful, followed in a few weeks by extreme tenderness of the sole with blebs, which were succeeded by openings from which oozed a glairy fluid resembling the white of an egg. Ulcers formed later, which were covered with a whitish, fluffy substance like mould, and which were found to be the openings of deep-burrowing sinuses. On account of the great pain amputation was ultimately performed, when portions of the muscles were discovered to be disintegrated and to contain masses of a mould-like material which under the microscope with two hundred diameters was seen to be composed of numerous granulated, rough, irregularly-shaped, yellowish, refractive bodies, which Dr. Kemper regarded as vegetable spores. The disease appears to have been the same as that described by writers in Oriental countries under the names "madura foot," "fungus foot of India," and "mycetoma," the exact nature of which even at the present day does not seem to be positively established. The disease has never, I believe, before been described as occurring in this country.

A rare example of "congenital elephantiasis of the foot" was also

* Practitioner, November, 1876. † Phila. Med. Times, vol. v. (1875).

‡ Arch. of Clin. Surg., October, 1876. § Ibid.

|| Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sci., January, 1876.

¶ N. Y. Med. Record, 1876.

** Ibid.

†† Arch. of Derm., January, 1876.

††† Ibid., July, 1875.

§§ Ibid., October, 1876.

|||| Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sci., 1869.

|||| Pacific Med. and Surg. Jour., June, 1876.

*** Amer. Practitioner, 1876, p. 333.

††† September, 1876.

reported by Dr. Paschal.* The disease continued to increase in size until the age of six and a half years; when amputation was resorted to. The measurements and weight give an idea of the huge proportions assumed, considering the age of the patient. The foot measured, from the heel to the end of the great toe, eighteen inches; from the heel to the instep twelve inches; the great toe eight inches; second and third toes six inches. The weight was five pounds. Duffy,† in the Transactions of the Philadelphia Pathological Society, gives an account of a singular case of the same disease.

The "treatment of elephantiasis, with a table of fifty cases," was considered by Dr. D. W. Osgood,‡ while Dr. T. G. Morton§ also gave a paper on its treatment by the ligation of the large arteries. The latter surgeon later, moreover, performed exsection of a portion of the sciatic nerve at the upper third of the thigh for the relief of the disease, which was followed by marked diminution in the size of the limb.|| The successful operation of Dr. Wagner on a case of acne rosacea of the nose, with great hypertrophy, is also deserving of record.¶

Two professorships of dermatology were created this year, one in the University of Vermont, to which Dr. R. W. Taylor was elected; the other in the University of Pennsylvania, to which the writer was chosen, the lectureship on skin diseases in the latter institution being at the same time abolished. A chair of dermatology and orthopaedic surgery was likewise established in the Chicago Medical College, Dr. J. N. Hyde being the incumbent. In the Long Island Medical College a lectureship was made, Dr. S. Sherwell receiving the appointment, while in Philadelphia the Pennsylvania Free Dispensary for Skin Diseases was opened, with Dr. J. V. Shoemaker as physician-in-charge. According to the statistics of the annual reports, nearly two thousand cases have, up to the present time, been recorded here.

In January, 1877, "a practical treatise on diseases of the skin," by the writer, was published,** the subject-matter being arranged according to the system of Rokitansky and Hebra, condensed and modified with the view of making the classification as practical as possible. The modifications were essentially those demanded by recent advances in pathology. The writer in passing to another subject may be allowed the opportunity to thank the members of this Association for the very kindly reception accorded the volume at their hands. A few months later Bulkley published his views on classification.†† The basis adopted was the scheme of Hebra, the modifications, with some few striking exceptions, being those of Neumann and of other writers of the period. The classification,

* Richmond and Louisville Med. Journ., Dec. 1876.

† Phila. Med. Times, Dec. 23, 1876.

‡ N. Y. Med. Record, April 8, 1876.

§ Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sci., April, 1876.

|| Phila. Med. Times, Jan. 19, 1878. ¶ Arch. of Clin. Surg., July, 1876.

** Philadelphia.

†† Arch. of Derm., April, 1877.

however, like the majority of its predecessors, was defective in that it followed no single system of arrangement, etiology and pathology, for example, both receiving consideration. A classification to be acceptable must be consistent, the subject-matter being disposed of according to one system. Let this be clinical, etiological, anatomical, or pathological, according to the views of the author, but not a mixture of all, nor even of three or two, for by such arrangement the object is completely defeated.

In Bulkley's scheme Class II. was designated "glandular affections," and included both structural and functional disorders. Under diseases of the sebaceous glands acne was adopted as a generic term, under which further were placed acne sebacea, embracing the several varieties of disease generally known as seborrhœa; while as varieties of acne punctata were grouped the diseases commonly designated comedo and milium, termed by the author acne punctata nigra and albida. As varieties of acne we also have acne molluscum (the molluscum sebaceum of the majority of writers), acne simplex, acne indurata, and acne rosacea. While it will of course be granted that these diseases are all allied, and would unquestionably be brought together in a natural classification, it is manifest that they are misplaced in a scheme based on pathology. Thus, for example, if a scheme contain a class of inflammations, as exists in that under consideration, acne, as the term is understood by most writers, is entitled to a place there.

Class III. the author terms neuroses, or neurotic affections, to which is evidently extended a broader definition than that ordinarily given. Here, for example, we find herpes zoster. Now, if this disease be admitted to this class, unquestionably numerous other diseases having nothing in common but a nervous origin, as for instance, urticaria, alopecia areata, and other atrophic affections, may with equal propriety be arranged here. In brief, if the class of neuroses be extended so as to include other diseases than those of functional disorders of the nervous system, we are surely opening the way to theory and speculation. It may be remarked in passing that the author is in error, we think, when he states that it is the first time that the disease has been so grouped. Damon, in 1868, in his work on neuroses of the skin, entertained the same views concerning the nature of this disease.

In commenting on this subject it will scarcely be expected that I should speak of the work so recently done in this direction by the Association. With the co-operation of the members, together with mature deliberation on the part of the Committee, there is no reason why in time the Association may not offer a classification worthy of adoption wherever dermatology is taught. In connection with this train of thought, I may be permitted to say a few words on nomenclature, a topic of vital importance to the progress of our science, and one upon which I would gladly see more attention bestowed by both writers and teachers. It is a subject which concerns dermatology at large. The great confusion which for the past fifty years

has existed in Europe has wrought most mischievous results not only there but here. Of late years, however, commendable efforts have been made by the more prominent authors to establish a uniform nomenclature, which should, moreover, accord in the main with the views of modern pathology. And this desire has been certainly nowhere stronger expressed than in this country. To bring about such uniformity and to establish a fixed nomenclature, to be changed only by the stern demands of science, is, to my mind, a task eminently befitting this Association, and one which I trust it will recognize as a duty. A definite, consistent nomenclature is absolutely essential to advancement. Let then every exertion be made to harmonize discordant elements in the effort to produce a result which shall be as simple as possible, consistent, and as scientific as the subject will admit of.

The further contributions to literature for this year comprise a small volume entitled "cutaneous and venereal memoranda,"* by Drs. Piffard and Fox, the views expressed on diseases of the skin being those more fully set forth in Dr. Piffard's larger work, already referred to. The first part of Dr. Fox's "photographic illustrations of skin disease,"† and a brochure on the tonic treatment of syphilis, by Dr. Keyes, were also published.‡ A second edition of Durkee's work, "a treatise on gonorrhœa and syphilis,"§ also appeared during this year, and, later, reprints of Dr. Liveing's manuals on "the treatment of diseases of the skin,"|| and on "the diagnosis of diseases of the skin."¶

In 1879, Dr. Van Harlingen contributed a carefully-prepared article on "the care of the person," in a treatise on hygiene and the public health,** edited by Dr. A. H. Buck, while Drs. Bumstead and Taylor issued a fourth and revised edition of the former author's well known work on "the pathology and treatment of venereal diseases."†† As contributions to this specialty of dermatology reference may also be made to the recent publications of Drs. Sturgis†† and Keyes§§ on venereal diseases.

The year 1877 witnessed, moreover, several important hospital and college movements, comprising a lectureship on skin diseases in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Baltimore, to which Dr. George A. Rohé was appointed; a department for skin diseases, in charge of Dr. F. C. Curtis, in the Albany Hospital; a like department and lectureship in the Woman's Medical College of Chicago, with Dr. Maynard as the incumbent; and, finally, the establishment of a male and female ward for diseases of the skin in the Philadelphia Hospital, in charge of the writer.

In 1878 a department for diseases of the skin and venereal diseases was opened at the New York Hospital, in charge of Dr. Bulkley, who subsequently began here the formation of a dermatological

* N. Y., 1877.

† N. Y., 1877.

‡ N. Y., 1877.

§ Phila., 1877.

|| N. Y., 1878.

¶ N. Y., 1879.

** N. Y., 1879.

†† Phila., 1879.

||| N. Y., 1880.

¶¶ N. Y., 1880.

museum, with a number of Baretta's models as a nucleus. The Nashville Medical College also created a professorship of dermatology, to which Dr. McConnell was elected. The following year a department of dermatology and venereal diseases was made in the Rush Medical College, Dr. Hyde being appointed to the position, and a clinical professorship of dermatology established in the University of Maryland, to which Dr. Atkinson was elected; while in St. Louis a clinic for skin diseases was opened at St. Mary's Infirmary. At the Boston City Hospital, Dr. Wigglesworth was elected to the department for diseases of the skin, being the position formerly occupied by Dr. Damon.

Current literature during the last few years has multiplied so rapidly that, in recalling the many articles which have appeared, a list formidable in proportions presents itself. The more notable contributions only, therefore, can be enumerated. In anatomy, Dr. J. Collins Warren published in 1877 an account of a peculiar formation, consisting of columnar prolongations of adipose tissue running parallel to the erector pili muscles, which he had found in normal skin, to which no reference was made in works on anatomy or on dermatology.* Dr. Warren, in a recent note to the writer, states that in disease these structures afford an outlet for morbid elements pressing up from beneath, examples of which he has observed in round-celled sarcoma of the subcutaneous connective tissue, in nævi, and in carbuncle, whose peculiar appearance is thus accounted for.

In pathology some excellent work has of late been done, the carefully prepared studies of Dr. A. R. Robinson on sycosis† and psoriasis‡ standing forth as examples of a kind of which we would gladly see more. The communications are valuable contributions to medical science. The articles of Dr. Van Harlingen,§ and more recently of Dr. Heitzmann,|| on epithelium, are also worthy of notice, the latter especially being a masterly exposition of the subject. Another communication to which reference must be made is that of Dr. Atkinson on "the botanical relations of the trichophyton tonsurans,"¶ wherein it is shown that the fungus belongs to the mucors, and is probably mucor mucedo. Lastly, Dr. Warren's views on rodent ulcer as expressed in a late lecture** may be alluded to.

The origin of the cancer cell, Dr. Warren thinks, is still unsettled, and while the weight of authority at the present day is in favor of its direct origin from normal epithelial structures, Dr. Warren states that in some instances he has had satisfactory proof that such was not the case, and that the connective-tissue cells must also be looked upon as the parents of the cells. It is gratifying to note that

* Bost. Med. and Surg. Journ., April 19, 1877.

† N. Y. Med. Jour., Aug. and Sept., 1877.

‡ Ibid., July, 1878.

§ Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sci., July, 1876; also "on the pathology of seborrhœa," Arch. of Derm., April, 1878.

|| Trans. Amer. Derm. Assoc., 1878.

¶ N. Y. Med. Jour., Dec. 1878.

** Med. Times and Gazette, May 10, 1879.

the earlier studies of Dr. Warren on this subject, to which reference has already been made, have quite recently been confirmed by Drs. Tilbury and T. Colcott Fox.*

Among the rare diseases we have to note reports of cases of morphea, by Bulkley,† Morrow,‡ and Gibney;§ of scleroderma, by Foster;|| of atrophy of the skin, by Atkinson,¶ Robinson;** and Taylor;†† and of the xeroderma of Hebra, by Taylor;†† and the writer.||§§ The contribution of Dr. Taylor on the last-named disease, embracing the notes of no less than seven cases of this very unusual and obscure disease, is a most important and valuable addition to our fund of knowledge. Of inflammatory diseases, we find examples of lichen ruber, reported by Drs. Taylor,|||| Fox,¶¶ Bronson,*** Keyes,††† Sherwell,††† White,§§§ and the writer,||||| an affection which ten years ago was scarcely recognized. It is, however, by no means so rare as the number of reported cases would indicate. Of pemphigus foliaceus but a single case was reported, by Dr. Sherwell;¶¶¶ and of impetigo herpetiformis one only, by Dr. Heitzmann.**** This last-named disease, while rare, is nevertheless, I think, of much more frequent occurrence than is generally supposed, a number of examples having, within the last decade, been under my observation. A single example of true prurigo was reported by Dr. Campbell,†††† this case and that observed several years before by Dr. Wigglesworth being the only two recorded authentic instances of the disease in this country.

Several forms of medicinal eruption are also deserving of mention. Two cases of bullous disease due to the ingestion of iodide of potassium, one by Dr. Hyde,†††† the other by the writer;§§§§ a case of maculo-papular efflorescence due to the bromide of potassium, by the writer;|||||| purpura produced by the iodide of potassium, by Dr. Abbe;¶¶¶¶ a vesicular eruption due to cannabis indica, by Dr. Hyde;***** and dermatitis caused by the taking of opium, by Dr. Seguin.†††††

* Trans. Lond. Path. Soc., 1879.

† Arch. of Derm., Jan. 1877. ‡ Ibid., April, 1879. § Ibid.

|| Ibid., July, 1879.

¶ Richmond and Louisville Med. Jour., Dec. 1877.

** Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sci., Oct. 1878.

†† Arch. of Derm., Jan. 1876.

††† Trans. Amer. Derm. Assoc., 1877 and 1878.

¶¶¶ Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sci., Oct. 1878.

||| Arch. of Derm., Oct. 1874.

¶¶¶¶ Ibid., Jan. 1877.

*** Ibid. ††† Ibid.

¶¶¶¶¶ Ibid., July, 1878.

¶¶¶¶¶ Hosp. Gaz. and Arch. of Clin. Surg., Nov. 1877.

||| Phila. Med. Times, April 27, 1878.

¶¶¶¶¶ Arch. of Derm., Jan. 1877.

***** Ibid., 1878.

†††† Ibid., April, 1878.

††††† Ibid., Oct. 1879.

¶¶¶¶¶ Phila. Med. and Surg. Rep., Aug. 1877.

||||| Ibid., Nov. 30, 1878.

¶¶¶¶¶ Arch. of Derm., April, 1878.

***** N. Y. Med. Record, May 11, 1878.

††††† Archives of Medicine, Feb. 1879.

Two rare varieties of urticaria may also be alluded to, namely, urticaria tuberosa, a very unusual manifestation, an instance of which was reported by Dr. Juler,* and an equally rare form of the disease which has been designated urticaria pigmentosa, illustrated by the case of Dr. Morrow.† An example of chromidrosis, observed by Dr. Andrew H. Smith,‡ is all the more worthy of being noticed for the reason that some dermatologists of distinction have been inclined to doubt the existence of the affection, regarding the manifestation merely in the light of a cutaneous hemorrhage. A case of lupus erythematosus of the glans penis, by Dr. Piffard,§ may also be referred to.

The subject of leprosy has received lately considerable attention, in the form of reports of cases by Drs. Hyde,|| Grünvold,¶ Ben-deke,** Hœgh,†† Rohé,†† Salomon,§§ and Jones,|||| and in the collection of valuable information through the labors of the committee on statistics of this Association.¶¶ In 1878, Dr. Rohé*** estimated the number of lepers in America at fifty, and Dr. Hyde††† at about a hundred, these figures doubtless not including the Chinese cases of the Pacific coast. If we may believe current reports leprosy exists significantly among these new comers to our country, and its prevalence here constitutes a subject which should be carefully investigated.

According to Dr. Jones,††† this disease in Louisiana was of much more frequent occurrence a century ago than at present, for in 1785 the number of lepers was so great that a hospital for them was established in New Orleans. The ground they occupied was known under the name of "La terre des Lepreux." The number of these patients gradually diminished, and the disease finally almost disappeared, the hospital being in time abandoned. It is certainly a fact beyond question that the disease exists to-day in almost all sections of our country, in some localities more prevalently than in others, among natives as well as foreigners.

Diseases of the hair have received attention from Dr. Sherwell,§§§ who reported an instance of trichorexis nodosa; from the writer,¶¶¶ who described a peculiar form of atrophy of the hair of the beard; and from Dr. Hardaway,**** and the writer,†††† who reported marked examples of bearded women.

* Cincinnati Lancet and Observer, Jan. 1878.

† Arch. of Derm., Jan. 1879.

‡ N. Y. Med. Jour., July, 1878.

§ Arch. of Derm., Apr. 1877.

|| Amer. Pract., Feb. 1879; also Chic. Med. Jour. and Ex., Dec. 1879.

¶ Trans. Amer. Derm. Assoc., 1879; also Arch. of Derm., Jan. 1879.

** Trans. Amer. Derm. Assoc., 1879.

†† Ibid.

†† Maryland Med. Journ., July, 1878.

§§ Proceedings Louisiana State Med. Assoc., 1879.

¶¶ New Orleans Med. and Surg. Jour., March, 1878.

¶¶¶ See Trans., 1878-79.

*** Loc. cit.

††† Loc. cit.

†††† Amer. Pract., Feb. 1879.

¶¶¶¶ Arch. of Derm., July, 1879.

¶¶¶¶¶ Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sci., July, 1878.

**** St. Louis Med. and Surg. Jour., Nov. 1877.

††††† Arch. of Derm., April, 1877.

Upon syphilis, the communications, of Dr. Hardaway on "the lymphatic theory of syphilitic infection, with a new view of the relation between chancre and chancroid, and suggestions for the radical cure of syphilis,"* of Dr. Hyde "on the immunity of certain mothers of children affected with hereditary syphilis,"† and "on the question of the innocuity of certain physiological secretions in syphilis,"‡ of Dr. Taylor "on the nature of syphilis,"§ and of Drs. Maury and Dulles on "tattooing as a means of communicating syphilis,"|| are to be noted. A case of syphilitic re-infection by Dr. Taylor¶ may also be alluded to.

Among the cases reported representing diseases of an uncertain nature, I may quote "pompholyx," by Dr. Robinson,** "an undescribed tuberculo-vesicular disease of the skin,"†† and an "ulcerative scrofuloderm,"†† both by Dr. Van Harlingen; "recurrent exfoliative erythema," by Dr. Fox;§§ "recurrent exfoliative dermatitis," by Dr. Bulkley;|||| "multiple tumors of the skin accompanied by intense pruritus," by Dr. Hardaway;¶¶ "a variety of molluscum verrucosum presenting unusual features," by Dr. Hyde;*** "a case of recurrent cutaneous hemorrhage with urticarial and bullous efflorescence," by Dr. White;††† and finally a "case of inflammatory fungoid neoplasm," by the writer.††††

Certain other articles are worthy of mention, as those on the so-called pigmentary syphilitoderm, by Drs. Fox§§§ and Atkinson;||||| hydroa¶¶¶ and molluscum contagiosum,**** by Dr. Fox; eczema marginatum,†††† and "on the recognition and management of the gouty state in diseases of the skin,"††††† by Dr. Bulkley; "faulty innervation as a factor in skin diseases,"§§§§§ and "auto-inoculation of vegetable parasites of the skin,"|||||| by Dr. Wigglesworth; "tinea trichophytina"¶¶¶¶ and "melanoderma,"***** both by Dr. White; and "tinea trichophytina unguium," by the writer.†††††

* N. Y. Med. Jour., Dec. 1877.

† Arch. of Derm., April, 1878.

‡ Chic. Med. Jour. and Ex., Feb. 1878.

§ Trans. Amer. Derm. Assoc., 1879.

|| Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sci., Jan. 1878.

¶ Arch. of Derm., Jan. 1877.

** Ibid., Oct. 1877.

†† Ibid., April, 1880.

‡‡ Ibid., July, 1879.

¶¶ Ibid., April, 1880.

††† Bost. Med. and Surg. Jour., Oct. 10, 1878.

†††† Arch. of Derm., Jan. 1879 and Jan. 1880.

‡‡‡ Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sci., April, 1876.

|||| Chic. Med. Jour. and Ex., Oct. 1878.

¶¶¶¶ Arch. of Derm., July, 1878.

**** Chic. Med. Jour. and Ex., May, 1878.

††††† Trans. Amer. Med. Assoc., 1877.

‡‡‡‡ Hosp. Gazette, March, 1878.

¶¶¶¶¶ Arch. of Derm., 1878.

¶¶¶¶¶ Bost. Med. and Surg. Jour., Feb. 14, 1878.

***** Ibid., May 16, 1878.

††††† Med. and Surg. Rep., Aug. 3, 1878.

†† Ibid., April, 1879.

‡‡ Ibid., July, 1878.

*** Edinburgh Med. Jour., Feb. 1880.

††††† Ibid., Nov. 1877.

Drs. Jewell* and Andrews† directed attention also to the influence of the nervous system in the production of diseases of the skin. Finally, there remain to be spoken of two admirable papers, one by Dr. Heitzmann,‡ entitled "microscopical studies on inflammation of the skin," the other by Dr. White, on the subject of etiology.§

In the province of therapeutics considerable activity has been displayed; the most important contribution, perhaps, being that on the employment of the solid rubber bandage in the treatment of ulcers and certain diseases of the skin, by Dr. H. A. Martin.|| The value of this remedy was later considered by Drs. Bulkley,¶ Fox,** and Atkinson.†† The permanent removal of hair received attention from Drs. Hardaway,†† Bulkley,§§ and Fox ;||| while Dr. Sherwell¶¶ gave his experience in the treatment of superficial vascular nævi. The last-named observer also brought forward linseed and linseed oil as therapeutic agents,*** from which he claimed to have derived great benefit in several diseases. The value of sulphur and the sulphides, by Dr. Hardaway ;††† of the glycerole of the subacetate of lead, by Dr. Van Harlingen and the writer ;†††† of electrolysis in rosacea, by Dr. Hardaway ;§§§ of the injection of tincture of iodine in the treatment of sebaceous tumors, by Dr. Hamilton ;|||| and of the actual cautery in the treatment of chancroids,¶¶¶ and in cutaneous surgery,**** by Dr. Piffard ; may all be referred to. The local treatment of eczema,†††† and the treatment of lupus,††††† both by Dr. Piffard ; and the treatment of the various forms of acne and of rosacea, by Dr. Taylor,§§§§ are also practical contributions. Finally, as valuable therapeutic agents mention may here be made of the petroleum ointments, especially of the two known as vaseline and cosmolene, which have been manufactured of late years, and are now deemed indispensable in dermatological practice.

I have thus gone rapidly over the chief events and the more important literature of the past decade, and have endeavored to direct

* Arch. of Derm., July, 1877.

† Buffalo Med. and Surg. Jour., June, 1878.

‡ Trans. Amer. Derm. Assoc., 1879.

§ Bost. Med. and Surg. Jour., Oct. 23, 1879.

|| Trans. Amer. Med. Assoc., vol. xxviii, p. 589.

¶ Arch. of Derm., July, 1878.

** Trans. Amer. Derm. Assoc., 1879.

†† Trans. Med. and Chir. Faculty of Maryland.

††† Trans. Amer. Derm. Assoc., 1878; also Phil. Med. Times, Feb. 14, 1880.

†††† Arch. of Derm., Oct. 1878.

††††† N. Y. Med. Rec., March 22, 1879; also N. Y. State Med. Soc., 1880.

¶¶¶¶ Arch. of Derm., Apr. 1877, and Oct. 1879. *** Ibid., Oct. 1878.

†††† St. Louis Courier of Med., July, 1879.

††††† Phila. Med. Times, Aug. 3, 1878.

§§§§ Arch. of Derm., Oct. 1879.

|||| Med. and Surg. Rep., Feb. 17, 1877.

¶¶¶¶¶ Arch. of Clin. Surg., 1876.

**** Charleston Med. Jour. and Rev., Jan. 1877.

††††† N. Y. Med. Rec., Oct. 26, 1878. ††††† Ibid., Apr. 5, 1878.

|||||| Amer. Clin. Lect., vol. iii., No. 10, N. Y., 1878.

attention to the various factors which have been instrumental in rearing American dermatology. Its early growth was, as we saw on a former occasion, gradual, extending through a series of decades; but its recent foundation, as it may, I think, very properly be termed, dating from about 1870 to the present time, has been most rapid. Its development within these years has been indeed remarkable. The workers have been few in number, but the results achieved show that a great deal has been accomplished. Their labors have been characterized by earnestness of purpose. They have striven on with the one idea of elevating the subject, of making it a respected and worthy department of medicine, and of placing it upon a substantial ground-work,—and in this they have succeeded.

American dermatology is to-day recognized abroad as well as at home, as evidenced by the many flattering testimonials which are met with frequently in the medical literature of the old world; and this result has been accomplished not by one, two, or three individuals, but by the combined efforts of all who have contributed honest work. With the material thus acquired our dermatology may be said to be soundly established, with a foundation upon which the future may safely build. Carefully prepared and recorded notes by reliable and trained observers are invaluable, and must ever remain the chief source of our knowledge. Upon their reliability depend their worth, and the value of the deductions which follow. And it is with this kind of work, with facts rather than with theories, with cases rather than with groups of disease, with individual ideas rather than with generalities, that our observers have mainly concerned themselves. Generalization can be of no value without abundant data from which to draw. Until recently our material has been far too scanty, and, moreover, of too unreliable a character, to raise enduring systems, classifications, and the like. First the necessary material, afterwards the structure, should be ever kept in mind. With the information already gathered, together with that which is being acquired at the present day so abundantly, the time is not far distant when such schemes may become possible. Until then let the good work which has been going forward so vigorously of late years be pursued. It is of the kind essential to progress.

Let me add that dermatology at large has from the stand-point of to-day a most promising if not brilliant career before it, and is capable of an unbounded expansion, the avenues to which have as yet barely been entered upon. Let, therefore, the hope be indulged that each year may find the corps of observers increased in numbers and in strength, and laboring in harmony for the advancement of the profession and for humanity.

Gentlemen, before bringing my remarks to a close, a sorrowful duty devolves upon me,—the announcement of the death of Ferdinand von Hebra, a pre-eminent honorary member of this Association. The sad tidings have but to-day been communicated to me, and as the past revolves a host of recollections crowd upon the

mind, and at the moment I can say nothing beyond a few brief words.

The great master has departed! Family, friends, pupils, our profession, the whole world, to-day mourn the loss. Ripe with years, everywhere esteemed and respected, crowned with all the honor the profession could bestow, he has passed away. A life well spent in a good cause, may conscientiously be said. His spirit is still with us; his influence to-day pervades the medical world; his writings will prove enduring legacies. No monument of marble is needed here.

To speak of Hebra in a tone becoming the man and the distinguished position he has for a half century occupied is indeed difficult. He was one of the few great men of our profession, and the greatest of dermatologists. The knowledge he gave so freely can never be estimated. As a writer he was clear, concise, and forcible; as a teacher he was unexcelled, and possessed that rare faculty of making his subject attractive. His experience and information were unbounded, and in listening to him one instinctively felt this. He was the founder and creator of German dermatology. Without him who would venture to say where our science would have stood? Who can justly value the extent of his widespread influence upon the dermatology of other countries?

His loss, I need not say, is deeply felt among all nations, for he was a benefactor to the human race. Thousands of every land, who through his skill have been restored to health, mourn him. All tribute to one who has labored so long, faithfully, and well. All honor to his memory.

